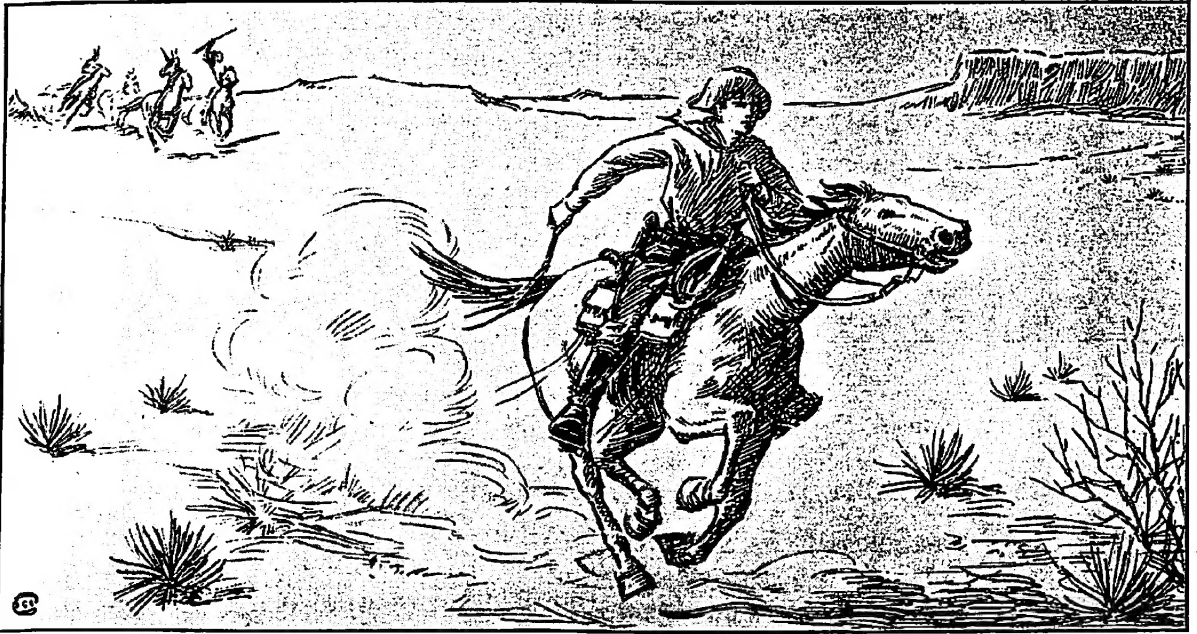carrying the United States mail before the days of the railroad."[1]

THE PONY EXPRESS

PONY EXPRESS RIDER PURSUED BY INDIANS

A. — A Pony Express rider crossing the Great Plains.   In the distance you can see hostile Indians trying to overtake him.

The End of the Pony Express. — In this way, for nearly two years, mail was carried across the plains, mountains, and plateaus of western United States. At first a rider started from St. Joseph daily when the train from the East brought in the mail that was to be sent on. Later only two trips a week were made. But once the mail was placed in the hands of a Pony Express rider nothing except accident was allowed to delay it. It went forward in winter as in summer, in bad weather as well as in good weather.

In 1861 a telegraph line that connected eastern lines with San Francisco was completed. Those who needed to get messages through quickly made use of the telegraph. Letters were sent · by stagecoach, and later, after the transcontinental railroads were built, by train. With the building of the telegraph there was no longer any need for the Pony Express and this service was soon afterwards given up.

Interesting Books to Read. — You may be interested in reading more about the way in which goods and mail were carried across the mountains and plains between the Mississippi River and the Pacific Ocean in the early days. If you are, try to get Walden's *Harness and Pack* (American Book Company). This one book brings together many stories about the routes and methods of transportation before the days of the western railroad lines.

Sabin's *Buffalo Bill and the Overland Trail* (Lippincott) also has a good account of methods of travel before the building of railroads in the West.

Two Lists.

1. On a sheet of paper write a list of ways in which we can nowadays send messages to each other. Be sure that you include all of the old methods that are still in use as well as methods that have only recently been employed.

2. On another sheet of paper write a list of ways in which we can travel from one place to another in our country. Here again be sure to list old as well as new methods.